



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Rod Blagojevich
Governor

Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Dr. Randy J. Dunn
State Superintendent of Education

September 1, 2005

Dear Educator,

Governor Rod Blagojevich has directed the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to begin implementation of the state's first ever Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) in an effort to reduce traffic deaths in Illinois to below 1,000 by the end of 2008. Work Zone Safety is one of ten emphasis areas in this plan. An increased awareness of driving safely through work zones has been identified as a strategy to reduce the crashes and fatalities.

In an effort to help educate students on the importance of safe driving in work zones, ISBE and IDOT have joined forces with the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to coordinate a statewide Work Zone Safety calendar contest. All students in kindergarten through sixth grade in Illinois' public and private elementary schools are eligible to participate. The calendar contest will promote work zone safety by introducing children at an early age to safe driving practices with the hope of instilling a lifelong awareness of work zone hazards and fostering safe driving behavior in the future.

There are two categories for this contest: Kindergarten through third grade and fourth through sixth grade. Each school will choose the top two entries from each category and submit to IDOT for the state contest. Through on-line judging and celebrity panel judges, the top three entries from each category will be chosen and will qualify for the national calendar contest. Along with the top six contestant winners, 10 additional contestants will be chosen to have their entries displayed in a 16-month calendar which will be distributed to the public through community events throughout Illinois.

The contestant winners will be announced at an awards luncheon in February 2006. A date and location will be announced at a later time. The top six contestants will receive monetary awards, and all 16 contestant winners will receive trophies. All students who submit a contest entry will receive a certificate of participation from the Illinois partners.

This contest will be beneficial to your students and I encourage your participation. Enclosed you will find an information packet. Please confirm your interest either by email at ILWZCalendar@dot.il.gov or by phone at 217-782-6953. If you have any additional questions, please contact Jessica Baker with the Illinois Department of Transportation at 217-782-6953.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy J. Dunn".

Randy J Dunn
State Superintendent